

Danny Carter, a 49-year-old Delphi employee who has been working in the Anaheim, California plant since he was 21 years old. And from Roger Smith, a retired Delphi worker now living in Hernando, Florida. Norbert Fuhs, a retired GM employee from Mitchell, Indiana. And Roger Talaga, a Delphi employee from Bay City, Michigan, who explained how the crisis would affect him and his family and the country.

DISPLACED VOTERS IN NEW ORLEANS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the Attorney General appeared in the hearing of the Judiciary Committee for an oversight hearing, and we raised the question again about the protection of those displaced voters in New Orleans who have now the responsibility of casting their vote for a local election.

Ordinarily, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the involvement of the Federal Government, but the Voting Rights Act, section 2 in particular, guarantees protection of certain States and persons of the right to vote. Therefore, we cannot understand why the Justice Department precleared a system that will not work.

Today I have introduced with 42 co-sponsors legislation to express the sense of Congress that the State of Louisiana and the Department of Justice must create outside satellite voting for the more than hundreds of thousands of displaced, disheartened Louisianans who have no way of going back to their home State at this time to be able to cast their vote for their city. They are, in essence, trying to come home. But with the little resources they have, today they cannot head home to cast a vote.

I hope the Attorney General and the State of Louisiana understand the Voting Rights Act and create outside satellite voting so that we can have the constitutional right to vote.

MEDICARE PART D DEADLINE

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn our seniors, a tax for your health will soon be upon you. The tax will be placed on those of you who have not signed up for Medicare part D by the President's arbitrary deadline.

The changes to the system are confusing to lawyers, seniors, and Members of Congress. We are forcing seniors to navigate unnecessarily confusing new programs and telling them do not pick the right program, just pick any program to prevent yourself from being faced with large penalties for joining late.

We must step back and extend the deadline until the end of the year to

ensure that seniors do not pay the price for a poorly laid out part D program through higher premiums for life.

I have had several town hall meetings in my district in Indianapolis dealing with this whole Medicare quagmire. Over 1,000 seniors participated; and, unfortunately, they left just as confused as when they came. These are not the questions that we should have had our seniors asking.

I would encourage all seniors not to get taxed further by failing to meet the May 15th deadline.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of seniors came to a series of town hall meetings in my district alone and their stories were almost always one in the same, what must I do, how can I get that done and how much will it cost my already taxed budget. These are not the questions we should have our seniors asking as they lie awake in bed at night. We must not add another tax onto the budgets of our seniors. We have to deal with this already failing system but we should not penalize the people for the failure of Congress to create an easy to understand and comprehensive system. Stop the tax and extend the open enrollment period. As I mark another day off of this calendar I warn all Seniors don't allow yourself to fall into this tax trap, be prepared to submit your paperwork by May 15th.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ENDURING MILITARY BASES IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last month the House surprised us all by unanimously agreeing to an amendment to the Iraq supplemental spending bill declaring that the United States has "no intentions of maintaining a permanent military presence in Iraq."

Who knew this Republican-controlled Congress would make such a positive statement?

The lead authors of the amendment were my colleagues and the Progressive Caucus co-Chair, Representative BARBARA LEE from California and Representative TOM ALLEN from Maine, both of whom have been instrumental in demanding that the United States not maintain any permanent military bases in Iraq.

Unfortunately, however, some people working inside the Bush administration are doing their very best to make sure that last month's efforts will be for naught.

One of the senior spokespersons at the U.S.-led coalition headquarters actually in Iraq had this to say about our lasting presence there: "The current plan is to reduce the coalition foot-

print into six coalition bases, four of which are operated by the United States."

So there you have it. The administration is not even hiding the fact that we are planning on maintaining four permanent bases on Iraqi soil, something they bureaucratically call "the coalition footprint."

□ 2015

This appallingly casual reference to what the rest of us call an occupation is deeply insulting. Anyone who has heard the President tell the American people that we will leave as soon as Iraq is secure and we won't stay a single day longer should be equally offended, because the evidence on the ground suggests that this statement is deeply misleading.

Mr. Speaker, last fall I traveled to Iraq as a part of an official congressional delegation. I visited the Green Zone and the Balad military base, and I had the privilege of meeting with our soldiers serving overseas.

There were two powerful lessons that I took away from my visit. First, I saw that the troops stationed in Iraq are the very best that America has to offer. They are brave, they are intelligent, they are loyal, loyal to their country, to their mission and to each other. They are profoundly committed to this mission, even those who told me privately that they do not support the policy that underlies it.

The second lesson I learned in Iraq is that the perception among the military generals on the ground is that we will be there for a very long time. The military bases that we are building are like little cities. They have their own restaurants, supermarkets, and even their own gyms, theaters and bus routes. The troops deserve no less during their stay in Iraq, but our stay there must be for the short term. Our troops need to come home to their communities and these bases must be given over to the Iraqis.

The U.S. has already spent \$280 million to construct the four biggest bases in Iraq, and the supplemental spending bill that the House passed in March provides nearly \$200 million more to enlarge these bases. This is the real Iraq policy, not those phony platitudes and nicely worded sound bites about standing down when the Iraqis stand up, platitudes that President Bush and Donald Rumsfeld want the people to believe.

In fact, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Bush administration's intention all along was to secure a lasting foothold in the Middle East. Forget all that stuff that you heard about going to war because Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, which we all know wasn't true. Forget about Saddam Hussein's supposed ties to al Qaeda. We know that wasn't true either. And forget about freeing the Iraqi people from the thumb of a brutal dictator. My guess is that right now most Iraqis feel brutalized after more

than 3 years of a preemptive war that now the President charges was about democratization.

The real rationale for going to war in Iraq is much more sinister and much more dangerous to our long-term foreign policy. It has become clear that the U.S. needs to end the war in Iraq and bring our troops home. Our soldiers need this, their families and loved ones back home need this, and of course the Iraqi people need this. But in order to truly end the occupation, we need to leave no lasting American presence in our place. That means no coalition footprint, nothing even close. That means bringing our troops home and giving Iraq back to the Iraqis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING RALPH HAUENSTEIN, MEMBERS OF THE HOPE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AND COLONEL JOSEPH MAZUREK

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to use my 5 minutes now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

HONORING RALPH HAUENSTEIN

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ralph Hauenstein.

Mr. Hauenstein rose to the rank of colonel while serving in the U.S. Army during World Wars I and II and was appointed Chief of the Intelligence Branch in the Army's European Theater of Operations under General Dwight Eisenhower.

Mr. Hauenstein was later selected to serve as a consultant on the President's Advisory Commission during the Eisenhower administration. He served as a member of the team that supervised the first free elections in Russia and served as an auditor for the Second Vatican Council in Rome.

At 93 years old, he continues his career of public service and has significantly impacted west Michigan through his charitable donations and tireless involvement in his community.

His generosity made possible the founding of the Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. The Center encourages students to emulate his career by aspiring to achieve leadership positions and committing to public service. It fosters discussion by stu-

dents, government officials and the public about the role of the U.S. presidency in domestic and world affairs.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 6th day of April, 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the vision, contributions and achievements of Mr. Hauenstein as he continues to serve his country and community.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE HOPE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Hope College women's basketball team on winning the 2006 NCAA Division III national championship.

On March 18, Hope defeated Southern Maine University 69-56 in the national championship game held in Springfield, Massachusetts. More than 500 Hope College students, alumni, faculty and fans were present at the Final Four tournament. With the win, Hope became Michigan's first women's basketball team to win more than one championship in any NCAA division. The college won its first title in 1990.

Hope played all six tournament games on the road. The team finished the season with an NCAA Division III women's basketball record of 33-1 after defeating the top four teams in the Nation.

Senior guard Bria Ebels of Holland, Michigan, was voted the most outstanding player at the tournament and a Division III All-American. Coach Brian Morehouse was chosen as the NCAA Division III National Coach of the Year by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association of America.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 6th day of April, 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the achievements of the 2006 Hope College women's basketball team and wishes its members the best of luck in the future.

HONORING COLONEL JOSEPH MAZUREK

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Joseph Mazurek as he approaches his July 1, 2006, retirement from the United States Army Reserve.

Mr. Mazurek joined the Western Michigan University ROTC program in the fall of 1972. He graduated from the ROTC Advanced Camp and the Army Paratrooper School in 1975. He served 2 years of active duty and became an Assistant Adjutant before being assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve. Since 1978, he has served in a wide variety of Reserve assignments at locations throughout the United States.

Colonel Mazurek continued to be promoted, and in 1992 he achieved the rank of Full Colonel. He has been called up for active duty three times since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom as Deputy and Acting Adjutant General for Fort Hood, Texas.

Colonel Mazurek has had a long and successful career serving in the United States Army Reserve. Since April of 1978, he has served the Admissions Department of the U.S. Military Academy

at West Point and has assisted numerous Michigan young people in gaining appointments to West Point. He has also served on the advisory committee for the Second Congressional District for young people to be appointed to the various military academies.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known on this 6th day of April, 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the 30 years of service of Colonel Mazurek and wishes him well upon his retirement.

REPOCRACY—A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives has quietly ushered in a new form of government in America called Repocracy.

For those who believe that democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people, Repocracy is absolutely the opposite of that. Repocracy is a government where open debate is replaced by lockstep discipline and where the rewards of the few become the burdens carried on the backs of the many.

Repocracy puts a price on American values and deals only in hard cash. You only have to watch C-SPAN to know what the real threat Repocracy poses.

For the last 6 years, the Republican Party has been a disciplined, monotone political machine. Republicans live by one rule; whatever the President wants, the President gets. War in Iraq, rubber stamp approval. Tax holidays for America's rich, rubber stamp approval. Slashing student loans, rubber stamp approval. Cutting programs for America's vulnerable children and disadvantaged families, rubber stamp approval. Legislation written by financial institutions and big drug companies, rubber stamp approval.

It was all so neat and tidy. Republican Members of the House voted the way they were told and leaders would not end voting in the House until their predetermined outcome was achieved.

But that was last year. What has changed? The American people noticed. The American people put a lot of faith and trust in their leaders. For better or for worse, most Americans take the big picture approach: Trust elected officials until they betray that trust. Believe that elected officials will put America's interests ahead of political interests. Have faith that your leaders will change course when something is truly not working. In other words, trust, but verify.